

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

DECEMBER 1938

VOL. 83, No. 10



The African people are receiving the Gospel. Of the seventeen new languages listed at the Bible House during 1937 as receiving the Scriptures for the first time, eleven are spoken in Africa. They are the Aladian, Dioula, Egede (West Africa), Bankutu, Sakata, Lualaba Ngwana (Belgian Congo), Kanakura, Nirere Nuba (Sudan), Kimbundu of Uige, Songo (Angola) and Somali (British Somaliland).

This African is playing an instrument called the Mzt

How YOU Can Celebrate Universal Bible Sunday

December 11

1. Encourage your pastor to speak at one of the services that day on the thrilling story of the translation of the Scriptures into a thousand languages and dialects. If he has not received materials from the American Bible Society, ask him to drop a card to the Society, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City.
2. Unless your church supports the work of the American Bible Society through its denominational budget, take an offering for the work of the American Bible Society. That will help to spread the Word of God more widely throughout the world.
3. Become a member of the American Bible Society by sending your personal gift of \$5.00 or more to the Society. Every donor of \$1.00 or more will receive the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD for one year.
4. Thoughtfully read an entire book of the Bible through during the day.
5. If you are within the range of one of the broadcasting stations listed below, ascertain at what hours on or about Universal Bible Sunday the station is to use the Society's half hour broadcast, and ask your friends to listen to it with you.
6. Listen to the nation-wide broadcasts in celebration of the day to be given as follows—1: 15 p. m. EST—William Lyon Phelps on WOR and the Mutual Network; 2: 45 p. m. EST—Secretary Roper of the Department of Commerce on WABC and the Columbia Network.
7. Order a copy of the new volume "The Book of a Thousand Tongues" compiled by Secretary North. On orders postmarked December 1 or earlier the price is \$1.85. After that, \$2.50. Unusually appropriate as a Christmas gift. Every Bible lover will prize the book. Send your order with check to American Bible Society, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City.

Broadcasting Stations Scheduled to Give the Society's Programs

Ascertain in advance from your station the exact hours. Some of the stations will give programs on both December 4 and December 11.

Alabama—Tuscaloosa, WJRD Dothan, WAGF	Mass.—Lawrence, WLAW	N. D.—Mandan, KGCU Valley City, KOVC
Ark.—Siloam Springs, KUOA	Michigan—Ironwood, WJMS	Oklahoma—Muskogee, KBIX
California—Chico, KHSL San Francisco, KYA	Mississippi—Grenada, WGRM Meridian, WCOC	Pennsylvania—Sharon, WPIC
Colorado—Sterling, KGEK	Missouri—Kansas City, KCMO Springfield, KWTO	South Dakota—Pierre, KGFX
Florida—St. Augustine, WFOY	Montana—Missoula, KGVO	Tenn.-Va.—Bristol, WOPI
Illinois—Carthage, WCAZ Springfield, WCBS	Nebraska—North Platte, KGNF	Texas—Laredo, KPAB Longview, KFRO Pecos, KIUN
Iowa—Iowa City, WSUI Sioux City, KTRI	N. H.—Portsmouth—WHEB	Vermont—Waterbury, WDEV
Kansas—Pittsburg, KOAM	N. J.—Jersey City, WHOM	Virginia—Lynchburg, WLVA Richmond, WRNL
Kentucky—Paducah, WPAD	New Mexico—Clovis, KICA	Washington—Centralia, KELA
Maine—Presque Isle, WAGM	New York—Jamestown, WJTN	
	N. C.—Kinston, WFTC	

The following stations will also make announcements: California—Hollywood, KMTR; San Francisco, KYA. Connecticut—Bridgeport, WICC. Florida—St. Augustine, WFOY. Illinois—Chicago, WCFL; Chicago, WJJD; Danville, WDAN. Indiana—Indianapolis, WIRE. Massachusetts—Lawrence, WLAW. Michigan—Ironwood, WJMS; Royal Oak, WEXL. Mississippi—Grenada, WGRM; Meridian, WCOC. Missouri—Columbia, KFRU; Kansas City, KITE; Kansas City, KCMO. New Hampshire—Portsmouth, WHEB. New Jersey—Asbury Park, WCAP. North Carolina—Kinston, WFTC; Winston-Salem, WSJS. North Dakota—Mandan, KGCU. Oregon—Portland, KGW. Rhode Island—Providence, WPRO. South Dakota—Pierre, KGFX. Texas—Laredo, KPAB; San Antonio, WOAI. Vermont—Waterbury, WDEV. Virginia—Lynchburg, WLVA; Richmond, WRNL; Richmond, WRVA. West Virginia—Wheeling, WWVA.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution
of the Holy Scriptures

VOLUME 83

DECEMBER 1938

NUMBER 10

The Significance of Bible Sunday

BY GEORGE WILLIAM BROWN

THERE came to my desk a few days ago a calendar for the Christian year sponsored by a great interdenominational agency. I was interested to see that in the list of next year's special religious occasions and festivals the second Sunday of December was designated as Bible Sunday.

I question whether ten years ago in the publication of such a calendar Bible Sunday would have been included; for I do not believe that at that time its regular observance had become fixed in the calendar of the Christian churches. It is my conviction that the present wide observance of Bible Sunday is due to the Society's careful planning, its production of attractive material, its free provision of this material to pastors, its dignified publicity, and its wise promotion.

The growing observance of Bible Sunday is of significance for the Bible itself. The annual statement of the President of the United States, similar statements by the governors of many states, publicity in the secular and in the religious press, church announcements in local newspapers,—all have a cumulative effect. For to the world's unique Book is directed the attention of multitudes—a few of whom like Cowper's laceworker "just know, and know no more, their Bible true," or in Lowell's phrase know just "its grand simplicities," but many of whom in the rush of this busy age associate the Bible only with the memories of childhood, or in many cases know it only by hearsay, if at all.

Bible Sunday reminds a great host whom no man can number that there is available a book whose very leaves, even like the leaves of the tree of which it tells, are for the healing of the nations, and whose messages bring hope and redemption.

And Bible Sunday is of significance for the churches too. It is an excellent thing in the program of the individual church to have one Sunday set aside each year for an emphasis upon the Bible. The effect upon the preacher is salutary. He must marshal once again his convictions about the Bible and bring them out in effective review before his congregation. The listeners benefit, for those who love the Bible devotedly are cheered, and those whose interests are casual are stimulated to explore its rich possibilities. A church with its pastor bringing things new and old out of the treasury of Scripture, and a congregation encouraged and guided in the fine art of using the Bible, presently become impressed with the truth once stated by Charles Kingsley "that the Bible as a means of attaining to the knowledge of the living God is precious beyond all expression or conception."

In my early days as a pastor, although knowing little of the Bible Society, I regularly observed Bible Sunday. Returning to the pastorate after a decade of service with the Society, it is my expectation to have my installation as a pastor occur on Universal Bible Sunday. For Bible Sunday to me is one of the most significant days on the Christian calendar.



The Pack-horse Library

Uncle Sam becomes a missionary to the Kentucky mountaineers through the Works Progress Administration

BY R. D. HUTCHCRAFT

THREE facts prompted the inclusion of this story in the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD. First, because in the Kentucky hills Bibles and religious literature were found to be in greatest demand. This makes it our story. Second, because of the fact that the supervisors and carriers are, as far as Secretary Cameron of the Central District has observed, persons of deep religious conviction and active in church life. And third, because the American Bible Society has contributed over 250 Bibles and over 100 Testaments to the saddlebags. Mr. Hutchcraft who writes the story is the director of Kentucky WPA Information Service at Louisville.—EDITORS.

Just what is a pack-horse library?

The answer to that question is a story that sounds like fiction, which is as true as is the fact that there is such a person as a Kentucky mountaineer.

Pack-horse libraries were the outgrowth of an expressed wish for reading material in the Kentucky mountains. In 1934, in Leslie County, a visionary and energetic Kentucky Emergency Relief Administration worker gathered together a stack of old, nondescript books, magazines, and pamphlets. The latter dealt mostly with religious subjects. There was need to find employment for people on work relief, so she hired an enthusiastic young mountain woman, who owned a white mule of dubious age and a pair of saddlebags. The bags were

crammed with miscellaneous literature, and into the remote recesses of Leslie County, over abandoned trails, through creek bottoms and cane patches, she rode. Stopping at every mountain home, she talked with the people and urged all who could to read the literature she was leaving with them. She read aloud to entire families, many of whom were illiterate. Some of the children who had had the advantage of several years schooling quickly learned to read aloud to their unlettered parents and grandparents.

The intelligence of the Kentucky mountaineer is keen. All that has ever been said about him to the contrary notwithstanding, he is honest, truthful, and God-fearing, but bred to peculiar beliefs which are the bases of one of the most fascinating chapters in American folklore. He grasped and clung to the pack-horse library idea with all the tenacity of one starved for learning. The idea grew by leaps and bounds, until today it is entirely out of hand—through lack of books.

One by one, three hundred and fifty-three pack-horse-library carriers were added, until, at the present time, women ride horseback and walk an average of 26,182 miles monthly to deliver 39,293 books to 36,293 Kentucky mountain families anxious to learn and to know the doings of the world outside. These libraries extend over certain backwoods regions of thirty-one counties. In each county seat a central point of distribution is maintained, from which

all books go and to which they are eventually returned.

The Federal Government pays the carriers—all of whom are taken from relief rolls—a very small wage. It neither buys nor does it furnish any books. There are no funds with which to pay express upon volumes donated. Teams of oxen and carts have been contributed by the mountain folk to haul into their respective centers loads of books from “out yonder.”

Books and magazines are soon worn out in the hands of these people. Before long, they are “thumbed” almost beyond repair. Yet, there is an ever-increasing demand that builds and grows. To say that these mountain folk are eager, is no exaggeration. Not when there are hundreds of cases on record to prove that men, women, and children have walked miles to meet the “bookwoman,” fearing all the while something might have happened to delay or prevent her arrival. Just recently, a young man walked eight miles from his home to a library center for a new supply of books. The bookwoman visits his home only once a month; so after reading the seven books she had left for him, he was too impatient to wait for her regular call.

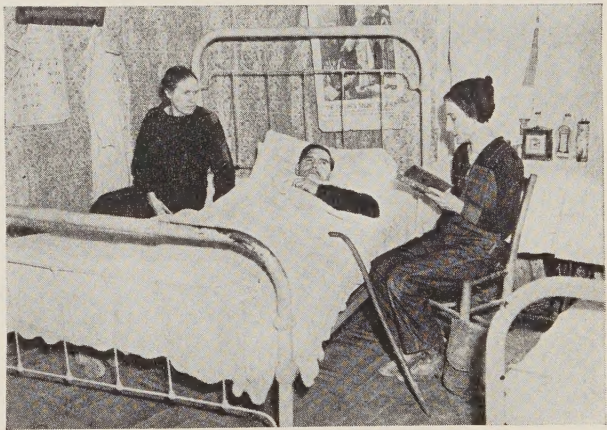
Among the greatest number of requests the bookwoman has received are those for Bibles and instructive literature. Kentucky mountain women who can read at all are extremely interested in works on hygiene and home economics, all of which tend to dissipate such age-old ideas among them as: that a baby’s dress should be put on over the feet for the first year or bad luck is sure to follow; and that a young rabbit’s brains, still warm, rubbed on a baby’s gums will help him cut his teeth.

“Doctors’ books,” as hygienic works are frequently referred to in the mountains, are distributed by the pack-horse libraries, and may save the life of a baby—perhaps a future President—where a common remedy for baby’s colic is to hold him over burning bran, being sure the smoke penetrates beneath his clothes.

Every mile the bookwoman travels brings a brighter ray of hope and interest for those to whom an opportunity heretofore has been denied. Where pack-horse libraries have wended their way through the Kentucky mountains, there has been a noticeable upward trend in the standard of living. Cabins built for years without windows now have them—simply be-

cause some member of the family read, and believed, that fresh air and sunshine were good and wholesome, and night air was not in the least harmful.

The bookwoman, however, is not without her trials and tribulations; during the past summer she was met on a mountainside by an irate father. He had a small daughter who had procured story books from the pack-horse library; but he wanted no more “sech going’s on.” He said, “I cain’t get my gal to do nothin’ but read. My cornfield needs hoein’”; and he declared angrily, “sittin’ in a corner with her nose in a book h’aint gonna get them weeds out!” The bookwoman talked to the father patiently, explaining the value of good books. He finally concluded the weeds were not so important, after all.



THE PACK-HORSE LIBRARIAN BRINGS AN HOUR OF JOY TO THE ILLITERATE SICK

All in all, the bookwoman takes on many aspects of an angel in disguise. She comforts the sick and aids the distressed as she goes on her way. Not long ago, she stopped at a home where no member of the family had had school advantages higher than the third grade. The old grandmother of the family had a letter she had received three weeks before, which she had been unable to read. The letter was produced, and the bookwoman read to the old woman about the birth of a greatgrandson on the “outside.” When told the new baby had been named after her husband, long since dead, the old lady broke into tears. She happily accepted a supply of picture books to look at until a future call from the bookwoman, when a fresh supply would be forthcoming.

In one county, the mother of six small children became the bookwoman for her locality.

She lives eighteen miles from any settlement, in a region where church services are held only once a month. There are no roads; travel must be accomplished up creek beds. The creeks are crossed by means of swinging bridges and foot logs. When this woman got her job, she managed to buy a mule for transportation. As the result of an injury the mule died. Since that time the bookwoman has walked. She walks eighteen miles to the county seat for a new supply of books once a week in the morning, and the same distance home again at night—and with a heavy load each way.

Carriers hold regular conferences once a week at their centers. At that time they clip continued stories from old magazines which have been donated, and bind them into "books" for distribution. Picture "books" are similarly made from advertisements or such other material as may come to hand. Sunday-school lesson papers and story papers are bound with cardboard covers, with an attractive colored religious picture on the outside, to make Bible story books. Sunday Schools have been reorganized and use these lesson papers, even



A WELCOME MOMENT IN A MOUNTAIN HOME

though they may be much worn and months old.

What is to become of the pack-horse library and such books as it may own when the Works Progress Administration no longer fosters it? A question simply answered: Those actively in charge of the work foresee it as a nucleus for a public library in each of these remote communities.

The Book Supreme for Children

Angelo Patri is a regular contributor to the BOSTON HERALD on the training of children. We are indebted to Bell Syndicate, Inc., for permission to reprint the following which appeared in the BOSTON HERALD on October 22

BY ANGELO PATRI

MORE than once a month the question comes, "What book can I give my child that will help him, or her, to form a fine character, to understand the real values of life? I'd like one that gave him a fine cultural background too. So many books for young people seem to be written for the day, like the ads in the papers, to be read and done with. I want something that will stay by him."

To all such searchers I have one book to offer, one that serves as a guide for character; that offers the rarest culture; that will stand by him, a fountain of wisdom and inspiration, all his days: the Bible.

Everything a teacher or parent needs in this relation is found there. Its wisdom is bound-

less; its culture rich beyond human power to imbibe; its inspiration, beauty, measureless, beyond all understanding, uplifting and sustaining.

The Bible can be had for little money. Anybody who can read may possess it. Yet it is so often overlooked in the eager search for the latest word on what to do for the ailing generations. Within reach it lies holding the secrets of the psychologists, the psychiatrists, the scientists, the poets, the prophets, and teachers of the ages. The history of human struggle, suffering, aspiration, and victory are there; and so are the records of sin, sorrow, and tragic failure.

Civilized peoples live by the Ten Command-

ments. They are recorded in the Bible. If there were no other code, no other guide for those who deal with children, there it is, perfected. A life developed on that law cannot fail.

Gentle people live by the Golden Rule. It is in the Bible. If all other codes, all other laws ceased to function, this one only remaining, it would be enough to hold the world of men together in peace and prosperity.

The literature of the Bible is rich, beautiful in expression, profound in its philosophy, inspiring in its truth. If a boy knows the Book of Proverbs well, he has in his mind the foundation of wisdom, a marked way of life, rich in understanding of men and their ways, of life and its meanings.

The Psalms of David are filled with spiritual

beauty. In them is comfort for the lonely, the sick and the dying; courage for the faltering, hope for the oppressed, joy for the aspiring soul. In them is the poetry of life, the music of the soul. The young person who knows those Psalms has a store of spiritual strength that will sustain him down to old age and beyond.

There is no human need of the spirit that cannot be satisfied in the reading of this old book. It should be the first book in a child's library, and it should be read and reread until its essence sinks into the very soul of its reader. Whatever your religion, whatever your faith, or lack of it, I commend the Bible to you; for it is beyond creed, beyond all littleness of human thinking. The Book.

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Through the Heart of Brazil with the Gospel

The Home Mission Secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Convention finds Indians and whites eager for the Word, and the cooperation of the Bible Society indispensable

BY THE REV. L. M. BRATCHER, D.D.

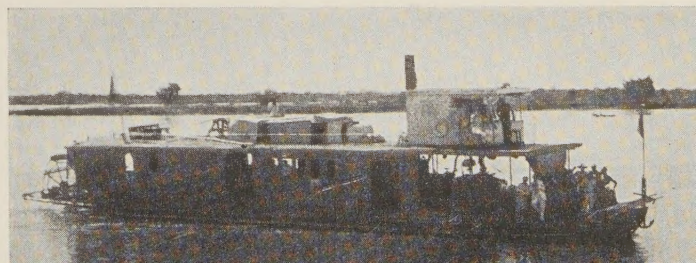
WITHOUT doubt, the sowing of the Word is one of the most important parts of the missionary task. The Word must be planted in the hearts of the people, where it brings forth fruit in its own good time. Those of us who have had the experience of going into the far-off places know that our work must be accompanied with the scattering of the Word even unto the uttermost parts. We also know that the Word that is sown does not fail to produce its harvest at the proper time. The harvest may delay; its tarrying may give us anxious hearts; but the harvest will come. So we carry the seed gladly, leaving the results to the Lord of the harvest.

Brazil is one of the fields where the Word is being sown in a wonderful way. The Home Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention has as its aim the taking of the Word into all of the distant places in this far-stretching land, where, until the coming of evangelical missionaries, the Book was closed to the common people and to all others, except the clergy.

Even now the chief opponents of the sowing of the Word are those who ought to be its most earnest sowers—the priests. Since they do not want the Book opened, others must labor to that end. And so the home board, with its missionaries and secretaries, is carrying the Word far and wide in Brazil.

Last year the writer, accompanied by his son of sixteen years, made a long journey across the heart of Brazil for the purpose of scattering the seed. The trip led us from Rio de Janeiro up to the great São Francisco River. We went down that river and up the Rio Grande to the Rio Preto. From there our journey led us across the interior to another great river system, the Tocantins. We traveled down the Tocantins and out into the Indian villages. This

ON A WATERWAY IN THE HINTERLAND OF BRAZIL



part of the trip had to be made on muleback, which is the only means of travel in the far interior. We also traveled in canoes and in motorboats on the great Tocantins. Finally, we entered the delta of the mighty Amazon, at Belem, and ended our journey. From there we returned to Rio de Janeiro.

On the whole trip we distributed the Bread of Life. In every place that bread was received with great joy and gladness. The hands of both Indians and whites were extended to receive it. We could not fill them all; for there were so many. We could not go into all of the places; for they were so many that neither time or strength permitted our going. We could only turn away, sick at heart, because we had to leave so many places unvisited and so many hands empty. We see those outstretched hands sometimes in the lonely watches of the night, when the pull of the work makes sleep impossible.

The Baptists are taking the sowing of the Word seriously, but our efforts would be in vain if we did not have the hearty sympathy and cooperation of the Bible Societies for the work that is before us. Only Heaven's books will reveal the work that is being done by the two great Societies that have as their task the distribution of the Word. From both we receive the most hearty and ready cooperation. To the Secretaries we have only words of praise.

On last year's trip we had the hearty cooperation of Dr. C. W. Turner of the American Bible Society. He furnished us liberally with the Word, and the lack of Scriptures was due, not to him, but to our lack of means for the carrying of the Word. His personal interest in the trip made our journey less difficult, and helped us in many ways. This word of appreciation is due to those who have helped us so much in our task. Our work would be impossible without that cooperation.

"The Testaments Have Come"

Missionary E. B. Stilz writes informally from Wembo Nyama of the arrival of the long-awaited volumes in the Otetela language

"**D**AKU di'Uyuyu ambuya!" The Testaments have come! I will never forget the expressions on the faces of the print-shop boys when I told them the good news. Jimba's face must have broadened out an inch or two to contain the smile of joy. The folks here had been wondering if they would ever come; it seemed to take so long.

The first copies came in here at Wembo Nyama August 2, just a week less than three years since the final work of translation was started. The translation was begun August 9, 1935. The last of the page proofs were sent in during August 1937. It was decided to have the work of printing and binding done in England, so as to save on transport. The Testaments were to have left there in February, but it was April 4 when they were actually sent, and it was the latter part of April before they left Antwerp headed for the Congo. They were a long time on the way, but came in good condition; for which we are very thankful. Sometimes goods are damaged by water on this journey. How pleased we are with them! I

do not think I have ever seen a Bible that is easier to read. The print is bold and not crowded. The headings at the top of paragraphs are a great help. The American Bible Society is to be commended and congratulated and thanked all at the same time for its services to us out here in the Congo.

On August 9 a service was held to celebrate the arrival of the Testaments, with the native pastor, Kimbulu Charles, in charge. Mr. and Mrs. Garner took pictures of this service. Then at Minga an hour was set aside during the business session of the conference for a thanksgiving service for the coming of the Testaments. It was a great event in the history of the mission.

Some of the native Christians wrote a letter of thanks, and this was copied by one of the teachers, Wema Mbulu, and sent in to the Bible Society. The native members of the conference signed their names as representatives of the Christian body. The following is a translation of the letter:—



READING THE OTETELA NEW TESTAMENT TO
NGANDJOLO, ONA YEMA, AND FUNDJI

To the people of the American Bible Society:

We, the Christians among the Atetela, thank you very much for your help in sending us the New Testament in our language. We are exceedingly happy, and we thank God, because from his love

which is in your hearts, you have thus shown us your love.

Many days we have longed for the Bible in our language. But these days we have joy more than can be told with words, because the gospel of Christ is being read in our language.

Many greetings from us.

Kimbulu Charles, Mose Ngandjolo, Andre Lunumbi, Lumumba Jerome, Lumbelilu Nicolas, Mulenda Francois, Wetshi Ukunda August, Ngelesa Jakoba, Danyele Djulu, Lusulu George, Shuku Josefu, Lupanu August, Luhata Danyele, Pierre Shumba, Pierre Fadiala, Andre Ona Uluki, Andre Ulungu.

We have put the price of the Testament at nine francs, about thirty cents at the present rate of exchange. There is a steady demand for them, and at the present moment we are sold out, waiting for more to come on the truck. Our neighbor mission to the north got some of them, and they also are very much pleased. We are due many thanks to the American Bible Society and all whom they represent.

NOTE: *The books cost the Society, apart from transportation to the field, about \$1.10 apiece to produce. This means that the supporters of the Society's work must contribute about eighty cents to help each Atetela person to have one.*

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Toward Universal Bible Sunday

BY FRANCIS C. STIFLER

AS we go to press, the evidences are that Universal Bible Sunday will be celebrated this year to an unprecedented degree. The date is December 11, although many churches are celebrating on other dates. There is reason enough for the heightened interest; for Bible lovers everywhere are this year rejoicing over the fact that, since Bible Sunday in 1937, the Scriptures have reached the thousandth language and gone beyond.

In observance of this significant fact, the American Bible Society has sent to over 112,000 pastors the country over a packet containing a brochure entitled "And Now—in a Thousand Tongues," written by General Secretary Eric M. North, which traces the amazing story of the translation of the Bible from the earliest days until now. With the brochure is a poster in three colors, which contains the list of the

1,008 languages recorded at the Bible House on January first this year. Other materials to aid pastors in the celebration are offered by the Society.

As a special commemorative feature of this signal event in the history of Scripture translation the Society has prepared a 380-page volume, entitled "The Book of a Thousand Tongues," compiled by Dr. North. In addition to a somewhat fuller review of the story of the Bible's march through the languages of men than that found in the brochure sent to the pastors, there is a 260-page exhibit of more than 1,100 reproductions of text from nearly all of the languages, from a few single verses to entire pages. Each text is accompanied by geographical and historical data. There are special articles about the English, Latin, Greek,

French, Arabic, and other notable versions, and ample indexes.

Through a special arrangement with the publishers of this book, Harper and Brothers, the Society is able to offer it at the price of \$1.85 to all whose orders are postmarked on or before December 1. Send all orders to American Bible Society, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City. Subsequently the book will sell for \$2.50. Even at the higher price, it is a long-awaited volume, which every minister should have for exhibit and reference, and as an inspiration to missions in his church. Every Sunday School should own a copy to aid teachers in telling the story of the Bible. Many Bible lovers will want it as their own. It will make a most appropriate Christmas gift to a Christian friend.

December eleventh may be made a great day in every church across the land. If, for any reason, any pastor has not received his packet from the Bible House, he should send his request at once to the American Bible Society, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York. As long as the supply lasts, the packets will be mailed out to those who have not received them.

Memorial Memberships

Are created by the gift of one hundred dollars and may be made either by an individual or group in memory of a relative or friend, thus opening the way for a continuance of the loved one's service in a world of need.

The following memorial memberships were created since our last report:

Mrs. Carolina Loder Whittemore, by her son, Howard Whittemore.

Mr. Galen Otis, by his daughter, Elizabeth Otis.

Mrs. Harriet C. Reigler, by her son, Howard E. Reigler.

Mr. John Thomas Wilson, by his son, Thomas A. Wilson.

Miss Charlotte L. Riggs, by her mother, Mrs. Warner B. Riggs.

Mrs. Ella Hetlage Bockhorst, by her sister, Mrs. Irene Hetlage Godt.

Miss Sadie Faris, by her sister, Miss Elizabeth Faris.

Mr. George S. Jones, by his wife, Mrs. George S. Jones.

Mrs. Christena L. Kennedy, by her daughter, Miss Viola Kennedy.

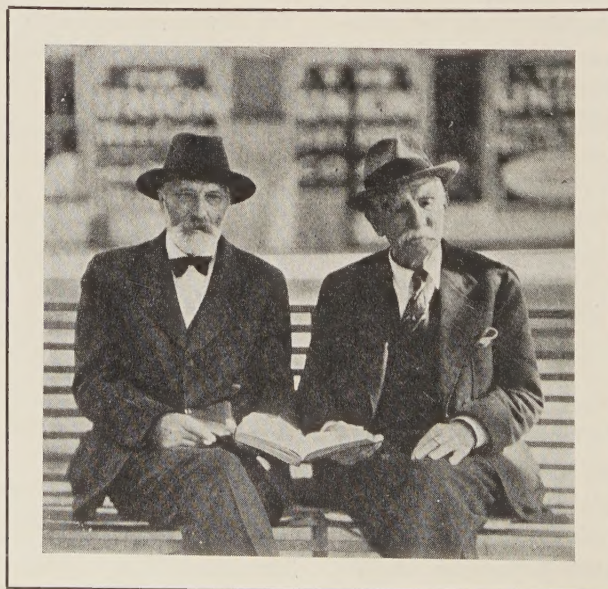
Mrs. Margaret E. Cogswell, by her sister, Mrs. Annabel De Vitt.

John and Elizabeth T. Statesir, by their daughter, Mrs. W. W. Taylor.

The Unfailing Guide

A SUGGESTION FOR CONVERSATIONS ON
A PARK BENCH

A. L. Allen and John Hedrick are both well past seventy, are on old-age pensions, and, though residents of the same city, do not live anywhere near each other. They meet, however, on one of the benches of the city park in Mount Gil-ead, Ohio, to discuss the important problems of life. When they came to the subject of the life eternal, they



sought the guidance of the Reverend L. Eugene Rush, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church. Mr. Rush added to his counsel copies of the Scripture furnished by the American Bible Society. Whatever problems Mr. Allen and Mr. Hedrick discuss now, they always have their Bibles on hand for ready reference or more protracted reading.

The Christmas Tree Thief

"I could not go back to God with stolen goods," explained the man who found unexpected wealth in a purloined pocketbook

THE Christmas tree thief was nicknamed "Santa Claus" at the local jail. They did not call him Santa Claus because he was in the habit of going to the jail to distribute gifts. He went there frequently enough, but usually on a charge of vagrancy, drunkenness, or some other infraction of the law. The group at the jail called him Santa Claus when, on a snowy December day, he was arrested in the attempt to sell a stolen Christmas tree.

But, finally, he came to jail on a different errand. This time he was not under arrest. To the surprise of every one, he was sober, and the desk sergeant thought him unbalanced; for he walked into headquarters, laid down a lady's handbag containing money and jewelry, and said: "Here is what I stole out of an automobile a week ago."

Only the Gospel missing

Police records of the contents of the handbag showed nothing missing. The officers of the law were amazed. "Santa Claus," through fear of being detected, might have hesitated to try to dispose of the jewelry, but he certainly could have used the cash without incriminating himself. There had been no clues to the theft, and yet of his own accord this man brought back the bag, openly confessed his guilt, and surrendered himself to the law. The owner of the handbag stated that only one article was missing. She said that she had not listed it as it had cost only one penny; it was—a copy of the Gospel according to St. Luke. Asking permission to talk to the prisoner, she inquired of him how it happened that he had returned the stolen property.

"Santa Claus' " confession in brief was this: "When I got to my room and saw what was in

that bag, I thought I had made a good haul. I put the money in my jeans and took the jewelry to a friend to sell it, but, as he did not offer me what I thought it was worth, I took it back to my room. Then I looked at that little book and began to read it. I read it nearly through, but when I tried to go to sleep, I kept thinking of the bozo who got all he could out of his father and then beat it to a foreign country.

"I got up out of bed and tried to find that story and had to read most of the book before I got to the place. Well, when I read it again, I began to think that I was that fellow; and so I began to pray and, mind you, it was the first time I had prayed since I was a little dodger at home. So you see, lady, how it all came about. I could not go back to God with stolen goods. It took me nearly a week to fight it out. Last night I prayed again, and the first thing I knew I was telling the Lord I would give back what I had stolen, and do my stretch for stealing if He would only forgive me. And here I am!"



IN Boston the burglar insurance rate is \$12 per thousand. In New York the rate is \$22.50. In Chicago it is \$27.50. What is the connection between these figures and the fact that the Bible has been read daily in the public schools of Boston for sixty-five years, in New York for twenty-two years, and for thirty years excluded from the schools of Chicago.

Have you thought of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD as a Christmas gift to a friend? Its value to ministers and Sunday School workers is always appreciated.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy
Scriptures*

*Editors: THE SECRETARIES
Address correspondence to Francis
Carr Stifter, Editorial Secretary,
Bible House, New York*



VOL. 83 DECEMBER 1938 No. 10

Bibles for Texas Flood Sufferers

WHEN the San Saba River overflowed a large section in Southwest Texas this fall, the damage done was almost ignored by the national press in its excitement over the New England storms. But to Ola Dee Hensley, of San Saba, it was no minor disaster. Her father and mother were drowned, her home completely destroyed, and all of her belongings washed away. With her two brothers, this eighteen-year-old girl fled to the home of her married sister. It, too, was flooded, but a rough shack remains, in which the two families must find shelter through the coming winter.

To them, as to many families along the San Saba, came the comfort of God's Word through

Rev. Kenneth R. Hemphill, Methodist pastor of Menard, Texas, and representative of the American Bible Society in that area. Acting under instructions from the Dallas office of the Society, Mr. Hemphill conferred with Red Cross officials and pastors in Menard, Richland Springs, Melvin, Brady, and San Saba, then personally distributed over forty English and Spanish Bibles and nearly 300 Testaments and portions, donated by the Society, to families made homeless and Bibleless by the flood.

• •

"BIBLE MONTH" is in full swing in the borough of Brooklyn, Greater New York. It opened on November 6 with a mass meeting addressed by Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes of Washington, D.C., senior bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The month will close on Universal Bible Sunday, December 11, with a full day of special activities. Meanwhile the place of the Bible will be emphasized in Brooklyn's many pulpits, and the practice of regular Bible reading will be encouraged.

• •

The Bible in China

IN the city of Sian, which sprang into fame two years ago when Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek was kidnapped and

imprisoned there, stands an ancient tablet commemorating the fact that Nestorian Christians brought the gospel to that region in the eighth century. Since that far-off time there is no record that any copies of the Christian Scriptures have been reproduced in this historic city, until a few months ago when Secretary Lacy of the China Bible House in Shanghai air mailed a set of plates to Sian from which copies were made of the Gospel of Mark for use in that section of China. Because of the war conditions, it had become very difficult to send Scriptures from Shanghai to the loyal band of colporteurs in that region. Now the sowing of the seed may continue in a time when it is most needed.

• •

IN the sesquicentennial celebration of the city of Piqua, Ohio, this year was included the float pictured here. It was a representation of the first meeting of the Piqua Bible Society, organized in 1818. This Society, only two years younger than the American Bible Society, has maintained an active existence for 120 years. The complete file of its minutes were on display at the local library. As an auxiliary of the American Bible Society they contribute generously each year and are active in the distribution of literature and Scriptures. Hearty congratulations!



Ola Dee Hensley receives her Bible.



The citizens of Piqua, Ohio, are taken back to 1818.

THE Life of William Tyndale is a four-reel sound motion picture 16 m.m. produced by the Religious Film Society in England. It combines dramatic incidents in Tyndale's life with documentary material on the regions in which he lived and worked. It is available from the Harmon Foundation, 140 Nassau Street, New York City. Terms for the renting of the picture may be secured by writing to the Foundation.

Board and spoke briefly on the work of the Society in his territory.

Mr. Howard Whittemore, on behalf of the committee appointed for the purpose, presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, having received with deep regret the resignation of the Reverend George William Brown, D.D., as a General Secretary of the Society, enters upon its minutes this record of their warm appreciation of his service to the Society and to the cause for which it stands.

During the more than ten years he has been with the Society he has devoted himself with skill and energy to the maintenance of cordial and helpful relations between the Society and the many Christian denominations and the thousands of Christian people who are its constituency. In his tactful and faithful presentation of the importance of the work of the Bible Society, he has won the confidence of denominational leaders and made many friends for the Society. During the difficult years of the financial depression he has carried forward his part of the Society's burden with determination and patience. Under his direction the observance of Bible Sunday has been widely extended throughout the country and abroad. During the last two years he has marked out lines of advance in the distribution of the Scriptures in the United States. In the councils of the staff and the Board and its committees, his contribution has been valuable.

The Board of Managers extends to him its appreciation, and prays that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon him as he returns to the pastoral ministry.

Secretary Brown expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to the Board.

Miss Margaret T. Hills, Assistant Librarian since December 1935, was appointed Librarian.

The Committees on National Distribution, Foreign Agencies, and on Ways and Means were authorized to meet on November 30, 1938, at 3 o'clock, to consider and prepare the budget for 1939, the Advisory Council to meet with them on that date.

Minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

It was reported that during the first nine months of 1938, there were distributed in the United States 2,452,857 volumes of Scripture as compared with 2,274,470 volumes distributed during the same period of 1937.

The engagement of Rev. Harold E. Dickens as a colporteur in the Rochester (N. Y.) District was reported.

The purchase of the property at 703 Sathorn Road, Bangkok, headquarters of the Siam Agency, was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

November Meeting of the Board

THE seventh stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-third year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York, on Thursday, November 3, 1938, at 3:30 p.m., President John T. Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Samuel H. Libby.

The minutes of the sixth stated meeting of the year were approved.

Sr. H. T. Marroquin, Secretary of the Mexico Agency, having arrived in New York en route to the decennial meeting of the International Missionary Council at Madras, India, was introduced to the

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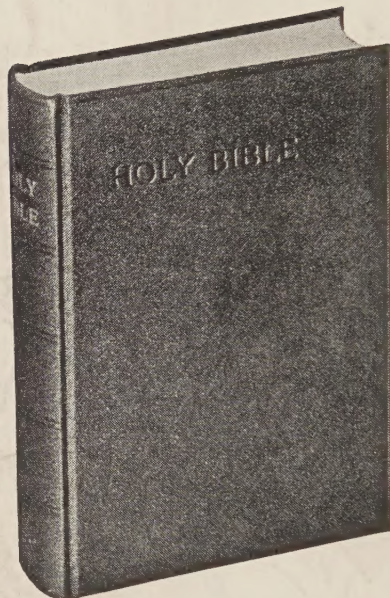
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